

# Message from Superintendent Ritz

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## Weekly Message from Superintendent Ritz July 8, 2016

Earlier this month, the Department provided schools with a calculation of accountability grades based on the new A-F accountability rule that goes in to effect for the 2015-16 school year. These calculations were done using 2014-15 ISTEP data and were done for illustrative purposes only so that schools could better understand how the new accountability model works.

After providing this information, the Department listened to feedback from the field. Specifically, the Department heard feedback regarding how grades are calculated for feeder schools and how to calculate growth for schools that have growth scores over 100.

The question over feeder schools is scheduled for State Board of Education Action at tomorrow's meeting. For schools that have over 100 points of growth, the Department will re-calculate the illustrative grades so that these schools will see their accountability scores calculated with growth uncapped. We anticipate having those reports to affected schools by the end of next week for both feeder schools and schools that received a growth score of over 100. Those reports will use 2014-15 ISTEP data for illustrative purposes only.

Secondly, I am pleased to recognize Indiana's 2014-15 Four Star Schools. I applaud the hard-work and dedication of the students, educators and families at these exceptional schools as we transitioned to more rigorous college-and-career ready standards and assessments last year.

A complete list of the schools that received the award, as well as a more complete methodology outlining Four Star determination, can be found on the [Department's website](#).

Also, please join me and national experts from the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) on June 27th for a detailed discussion into the Every Student Succeeds Act. The CCSSO-led topics will include:

- Assessment;
- Accountability; and
- Federal Funding.



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The invitation is for school corporation superintendents (or their designee) and one guest. To register [click here](#).

Finally, with summer vacation starting for many Hoosier children, I would like to remind you of the 2016 Summer Food Service Program. Fewer than 20% of all low-income Hoosier children that receive free or reduced lunch during the school year received free meals during the summer months last year. Our goal this summer is to increase that number and feed more deserving children. Last summer there were more than 250 organizations, including school corporations, local government agencies and community organizations, that were able to feed students. [Click here](#) to find the nearest [summer meal site](#) near you.

Have a great week!

Sincerely,

Glenda Ritz, NBCT  
Superintendent of Public Instruction

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### **ESEA Flexibility Waiver Related News**

**The U.S. Department of Education (USED)** is working with State Educations Agencies, like the Indiana Department of Education, by advising them and listening to them as federal law transitions to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). As we continue to work through USED's rule promulgation of this new law, we will keep schools, teachers and administrators updated on any new finalized items. To follow the progress of this law, USED has provided the public with a web page and an FAQ on this transition. We have included it below for you. Thank you and we look forward to working with our stakeholders as we go through this transition. Follow these links for the [USED ESSA web page](#) and [ESSA FAQ from USED](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Federal Relations Director Jeff Coyne at [jcoyne@doe.in.gov](mailto:jcoyne@doe.in.gov).

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### **IDOE Memoranda**

**NEW - The Indiana Department of Education [Office of eLearning](#)** and the Central Indiana Educational Service Center (CIESC) formed a strategic partnership this spring to launch several initiatives. This partnership is a part of the IDOE Office of eLearning strategy for building innovation capacity through educational technology. The three innovative initiatives are the eLearning Leadership Cadre, Administrator's Focus Forum, and the LEAD IN Cohort. Please visit the [CIESC website](#) to learn more about the partnership.

**NEW - Middle School Engineering and Technology Standards**, Engineering and technology teachers from Indiana middle schools, high schools and local universities worked together with Mary Rinehart, Engineering and Technology State Program Leader, to write the first Middle School Engineering and Technology Standards. A pacing guide will follow this summer. For more information, please read this [memorandum](#). You may view the standards [here](#).

**The IDOE and State Board of Education** would like to announce new evaluator training at the nine Education Service Centers ([flyer](#)). The new trainings will provide hands-on, skills-based professional development. Detailed information and registration for the trainings can be found on each Education Service Center [webpage](#). Information on the free, online Level 1 Evaluator Training can be found [here](#).

**Funding for the Fall 2016 PSAT/NMSQT Administration** In terms of funding the PSAT, the state will cover the cost of the Fall 2016 PSAT/NMSQT exam administered on *Wednesday, October 19, 2016 or the alternate date of Wednesday, November 2, 2016\** for all 10th and 11th grade students enrolled in Indiana accredited public and nonpublic high schools. For additional information about the PSAT/NMSQT, please refer to the [College Board](#) website along with the [attached memorandum](#). If you have questions about the PSAT/NMSQT and the state funding for 10th and 11th grade students, please contact [PSAT@doe.in.gov](mailto:PSAT@doe.in.gov).

**CCR Bridge Courses - Literacy and Math Readiness Course Training in Indiana** The CCR Bridge courses are *two new courses* for students who have completed the minimal requirements (with course grades of C- and/or D) for college preparatory work, but who still need support with the transition to college courses and with testing at the required level on placement assessments. You can find a registration [link here](#). If you have literacy questions, please contact Jill Lyday at [jlyday@doe.in.gov](mailto:jlyday@doe.in.gov). If you have math questions, please contact Bill Reed at [wreed@doe.in.gov](mailto:wreed@doe.in.gov).

**2016 Summer School** The Department has calculated the estimated distributions for 2016 Summer School. The amounts are calculated using the data submitted by school corporations and charter schools on the Estimated Instructional Costs Report. Final distribution amounts will be determined when actual expenditure data is received this fall. The 2016 Summer School Estimate memo and distribution list are posted [on our website](#) and in the Finance Community of the Learning Connection. If you have any questions, please contact Kathryn Roth at [krath@doe.in.gov](mailto:krath@doe.in.gov) or Melissa Ambre at [mambre@doe.in.gov](mailto:mambre@doe.in.gov).

**Elementary Reading Plan 2016-17** Reading plans are due by June 30, 2016. Pursuant to state regulations, the State Board of Education is required to request all State Board accredited schools with kindergarten through grade 3 to submit an annual [Elementary Reading Plan](#). Reading Plans should be submitted online to the Department of Education's [website](#). Principals will utilize their personal school/pin login to access DOE Online.

**2016 IDOE Office of School Finance Budget Workshop** The Indiana Department of Education Office of School Finance will sponsor a Budget Workshop on Wednesday, June 29, 2016. The workshop will be held in the Performing Arts Center at Pike High School, 6701 Zionsville Road, Indianapolis. See [attachment](#).

**The Indiana Teacher of the Year Program** (INTOY) is excited to announce the 2017 Teacher of the Year Application. Applications are due **July 11, 2016**. Please review the [INTOY Application Packet](#) and the [INTOY Program](#) documents for further information. The application will also be available on our [Indiana Teacher of the Year website](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Teacher of the Year Coordinator, Caitlin Beatson, at [cbeatson@doe.in.gov](mailto:cbeatson@doe.in.gov).

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## Professional Development

**Indiana Department of Education** is again offering regional summer [professional development](#) from content specialists. The IDOE is pleased to offer regional summer professional development from our Subject Matter Experts! This half-day workshop will cover a variety of topics that will take participants on a deeper dive into their content areas. For more information, see the [attached flyer](#).

**Indiana School Health Conference** Please join us on June 14th and 15th in Indianapolis for the annual Indiana School Health conference brought to you by the Indiana School Health Network and Covering Kids and Families of Indiana. [Register now](#) and visit [www.inschoolhealth.org](http://www.inschoolhealth.org) for the latest information on the conference.

**AP Summer Institute at the Indiana Academy** The Indiana Academy will be hosting an AP Summer Institute on the campus of Ball State University July 11th - 14th and July 18th - 2nd. The workshops are subject-specific and provide teachers with support and training needed to teach AP courses. For more information visit the [Indiana Academy's website](#).

**Indiana State Fair Field Trips** are an opportunity for Classroom and Home Educators to enhance classroom curriculum by utilizing an educational experience that cannot be accomplished in the classroom setting. Field trips require [pre-registration](#) and 15 or more students of the appropriate grade level of the selected field trip.

**Indiana Education Service Centers** offer a variety of professional development opportunities. To learn more about professional learning opportunities in your area, visit the website of an Education Service Center in your area.

- [Region 8 Education Service Center](#)
- [Central Indiana Education Service Center](#)
- [Northwest Indiana Education Service Center](#)
- [Southern Indiana Education Service Center](#)
- [East Central Indiana Education Service Center](#)
- [West Central Indiana Education Service Center](#)
- [Wabash Valley Education Service Center](#)

- [Wilson Education Center ESC Region 2](#)

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## Legislative & Policy Updates

For updates, check out the our [Facebook](#) page and follow us on [Twitter](#).

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## Information from Other Agencies

**NEW - Department of Workforce Development** The Indiana Department of Workforce Development has a new newsletter [Engage. Align. Advance](#).

**Indiana State Library's INSPIRE Digital Literacy Resource**, [INSPIRE](#) has licensed TeachingBooks.net - a service that enhances your literacy work with instructional and primary source materials about the books and authors your students are reading. To learn more, register for INSPIRE Webinars covering a variety of topics including Indiana reading lists, cross-curricular resources and more. For more details, please visit the [TeachingBooks website](#), email [accounts@TeachingBooks.net](mailto:accounts@TeachingBooks.net) or call (800) 596-0710.

**The Indiana Youth Institute** and 2016 [Post secondary Counseling Institute](#) provide training to help prepare students academically, socially and financially for post-secondary education and the workforce. The following sessions are just a few of many that will provide a great professional learning opportunity for our colleagues:

- Leveraging Career and Technical Education: Where Everyone is Someone,
- Creating an Equity Toolkit: Strategies for Individualizing Paths to College and Career Success,
- State Leadership, School Counselor and Parent Panels,
- Beyond the FAFSA, Smart Financial Choices and Critical Steps for Families to Fund a Student's Education.

Trainings will be held June 16-17 - [register now](#).

**21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)** The IDOE will release a 21st CCLC program Request for Proposal (RFP) in August 2016. Workshops on the RFP will be held across the state this June. The workshops will discuss the upcoming RFP and Best Practices. You can find dates, locations, and registration at <http://www.doe.in.gov/21stcclc>.

**This week on The Friday Zone** - Learn all about fireplace safety with experts from the Chimney Safety Institute of America. See how a chimney gets cleaned alongside a real chimney sweep. The Bearded Chef takes us outside to cook over a campfire. [The Friday Zone](#) is a weekly program on Indiana PBS stations that uses hands-on demonstrations to teach children in grades K-2 principles drawn from state educational standards. Check your local station for times.

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